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To Whom It May Concern:

I am "The Computer Lady" at Belle Haven School in the Ravenswood City School District in East Palo Alto and Menlo Park, California. Although we are located in the heart of Silicon Valley, this district consists of primarily low income (90%) and English-Language Learning students (65%). Their parents are primarily service and construction workers with little or no computer skills. It is up to our schools to give the students the computer preparation they need to succeed in our increasingly technology-oriented society.

Without E-rate funding we would have no network at all. Ravenswood District has suffered through massive budget cuts over the last 5 years, and has concentrated all monetary resources on keeping teachers in the classrooms. It is only through E-rate that we have been able to provide the network to keep our teachers communicating through email and our students learning with on-line resources. We have received grants from HP, Facebook, VM Ware and other local companies for the desktop and laptop computers we need. But, without the infrastructure of our back-end network we would be still in the 20th century standard of stand-alone computers.

Please increase the available funding through E-rate to match the increasing requests from schools and libraries. In just 18 months we are going to be required to test all of our students using on-line testing of the new Common Core standards. Almost every other district in the country will have that same requirement. Without a network structure robust enough to handle so many students on the network at the same time, our testing window will have to drag on for months. Students will have to begin year-end testing in early March when they have only learned about 60% of the standards for the year.

Thank you for your support of Ravenswood Students, and those in many other districts around the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan H. Allen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" being more prominent than the last name "Allen".

Susan H. Allen